

MARCH 2000

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHORT SKIP

March Meeting: **FAILURE & RECOVERY** (of your Batteries)

The march meeting will be in the downstairs of the Dominican main building.

As you approach the front entrance stay to the right and go in the outpatient door, not the monster rotating door. After you pass through the door, take the hall to the right and on your right will be the elevator that goes downstairs. The meeting rooms are on both sides of the elevator when you exit.

The meeting topic will be on the causes, failure and recover of batteries.

Last Issue of Short Skip?

This is your last issue of Shortskip is you haven't renewed your SCCARC membership for 2000. You must be a current member to receive the next issue which will include the 2000 club roster. If you have already renewed, you should have received your new membership card in the mail and the mailing label on this issue of Shortskip should say 12/31/2000. If this issue's mailing label says 1999 and you don't yet have your new membership card, we don't show you as having renewed. If you believe you have renewed, but we aren't showing it, please contact club treasurer Allen WB6RWU.

— Cap Pennell

SENATE BILL 1714 ACT NOW

I urge amateur radio operators to write a note to our Senator Bruce McPherson and ask for support for Senate Bill 1714. I have written a letter which I will send soon. Senator McPherson has an office at 701 Ocean St, Rm 318A Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060. It is in the courthouse. Let him know that you want him to support Senate Bill 1714. Checkout the bill in an earlier letter here from Rich Hanset, KI6EH (*see page 2*).

Some of you don't remember the rallying of hams and CB'ers that we did about 20 years ago in Capitola. A Capitola Councilman didn't like the broken antennas that he saw on roof tops and wrote an ordinance against outside antennas. The ordinance would have restricted ham antennas. This is all that it takes for us hams to suffer from restrictive laws against our antennas. We need a state level check against these local laws. Other states have passed laws like SB 1714. California needs it also. It is now in the works, so now is the time to let our Senator and Assemblyperson know about our need in this respect.

Recently my antenna installation project came under scrutiny by the City of Capitola because of a neighbors complaint. The city officials looked at my tower from the front of my house and took pictures over the back fence of my backyard. This summer I intend to put up my outdoor antennas and I may need the power of SB 1714. Another compliant from a vindictive neighbor may cause trouble again for me.

— 73, Allen Fugelseth, WB6RWU

As a followup here are some further details. The full text of SB 1714 is at the end.

Most of those reading Short Skip live in Senate District 15, with Senator Bruce McPherson. He covers all of Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties, plus a piece of Santa Clara County. You may write to him at the State Capitol Room 318A, Sacramento, CA 95814. His web site, <http://WWW.sen.ca.gov/McPherson/> has a "Post Opinion" link in which you can send comments to him via email. Personally, I believe that a signed, mailed letter is more effective, but email is certainly better than nothing.

The bill hasn't been assigned to a committee yet. When it does, we'll have additional names to write to.

Note that the bill is in the State Senate. A letter to your Assembly representative won't hurt, although it isn't clear how much good it will do as long as the bill resides in the Senate. The Assembly district for most reading this is AD27, with Assemblyman Fred Keeley. His address is simply State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, His web page is at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a27/>

For those living outside SD15 or AD27, you can get the names of your representatives by going to:

<http://www.senate.ca.gov/~newsen/senators/yoursenator.htm>

—73. Jim, W6CF

CLUB MEETING FRIDAY MARCH 17, 7:30P.M.

SHORT SKIP

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On-line Amateur Radio Practice Tests

The West Valley Amateur Radio Association has added on-line practice examinations for all written elements to its Web site. "Our program will automatically generate a test and grade it after you are done!" says Webmaster Mike Polkinghorn, K6PUD. Visit <http://www.wvara.org> and follow the link in the bulletin on the front page.

—Mike Polkinghorn. K6PUD/WVARA

ARES REPEATERS

The Santa Cruz County Office of Emergency Services furnishes three repeaters to ARES. The repeaters are operated by ARES. All repeaters require a PL of 94.8. The frequencies and locations are as follows:

KD6FXQ	147.015+	Watsonville
N6IYA	146.745-	Bonny Doon
W6FKD	146.835-	Summit

DXCC Card Checking

The ARRL DXCC Desk says that effective April 1, 2000, DXCC members may have their cards checked by local card checkers without having to mail cards to ARRL Headquarters. Under the new program, DXCC card checkers will be able to check all awards except 160 meter DXCC, as well as all QSLs from any current DXCC entity. This will apply to both new awards and endorsements. QSOs made up to 10 years prior to the current year will be eligible for field checking, while older cards and those from deleted entities still may be sent to ARRL HQ. The current DXCC Field Checking program ends March 31, 2000. Reappointment of DXCC Card Checkers under new criteria will be necessary. For more information, contact Bill Moore, NC1L, dxcc@arrl.org; 860-594-0234.
—DXCC

It's Magic

Listening to Don's talk at the last club meeting about the early days of spark wireless I imagined that those pioneers must have thought they were dealing with magic. When I got home I turned on my shoe box sized rig and pushed the energy of a typical lamp bulb out of my 20 ft whip antenna. In 25 minutes I had worked Pitcairn Island a Russian Base in Antarctica, Japan and Australia on 20 meters. I still think it's magic- CW of course!

SB 1714

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1714, as introduced, Brulte. Zoning ordinances: radio antennas.

Existing law authorizes the legislative body of any county or city to adopt zoning ordinances for various purposes.

This bill would provide that any ordinance enacted by the legislative body of any city or county regulating the placement, screening, or height of antennas shall reasonably accommodate amateur radio antennas and permit radio antenna height to less than 200 feet or 75 feet, depending on the population density of the city or county.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 65850.3 is added to the Government Code, to read:

65850.3. (a) Any ordinance enacted by the legislative body of any city or county regulating the placement, screening, or height of antennas shall reasonably accommodate amateur radio antennas and shall impose the minimum regulation necessary to accomplish the legitimate purpose of the city or county.

(b) In a city or county having a population density of 120 persons or less per square mile according to the 1990 United States census, no ordinance shall do either of the following:

(1) Restrict amateur radio antenna height to less than 200 feet above ground level as permitted by the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) Restrict the number of support structures.

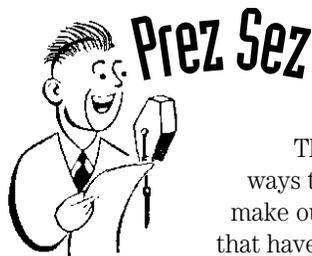
(c) In a city or county having a population density of more than 120 persons per square mile according to the 1990 United States census, no ordinance shall do either of the following:

(1) Restrict amateur radio antenna height to less than 75 feet above ground level.

(2) Restrict the number of support structures.

(d) Reasonable and customary engineering practices shall be followed in the erection of amateur radio antennas.

(e) This section shall not preclude a city or county, by ordinance, from regulating amateur radio antennas with regard to reasonable requirements relating to the use of screening, setback, and placement, and health and safety requirements.



This month the SCCARC Board will be discussing ways to attract new members to our club and also ways to make our club more attractive to current members. Ideas that have been floated so far are more club operating events such as Fox Hunts and "mini" Field Days. We are very open to your suggestions and encourage members to contact us with your ideas. E-mail, phone, or talk on the repeater to any of the board members and I assure you we will consider your suggestions. It's your club: what would you like to see us do to make it better?

What's the world coming to? I wandered into Radio Shack to check out their new model HTX 10, a mobile 10 meter rig. When I asked the manager where the heck you plug your key into the rig he looked at me kind of funny and grunted:

"Huh?" "I can't see where you plug your key in - you know - for CW." He stared at me blankly. "Morse code", I said, "Where do you plug in your telegraph key to send Morse code? It does have a CW mode doesn't it?" "Oh that!" he sneered, "Nobody uses morse code anymore except for die hard hobbyists: they even eliminated the morse code requirement from the amateur license test." Needless to say, I passed on the rig.

— 73, KQ6DV



By Art Lee WF6P

CHATTER

While working up an article for Monitoring Times magazine, I included a story about my high school days as a Short Wave listener (SWL) and prospective ham. In those days, a crystal radio was a fascinating little rig that most of us built and used. Thirty miles seemed to be a good range for the little "cats whisker" rigs and KGO boomed in over my headset long into the long winter nights in Hayward. My job as a sweeper in the garage of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company provided me with a few spare dollars to support my SWL hobby. What I really wanted and needed, was something that could really "reach out" and drag in some foreign signals. This was during WWII, and I was excited about the prospect of listening to Tokyo Rose or Axis Sally (new readers might ask, who in the heck were they?). Short Wave radios were scarce in 1943/4 but my wildest hopes were satisfied with the purchase of a Halicrafters S-20-R Sky Champion. I remember going to Berkeley one frosty morning to make the purchase from a ham operator. The warm glow which came over me as I held the heavy rig in my lap overcame the cold air whipping around my head in the open front seat of my friend's Model A. Ah yes, those were the fun days. Our vehicle had no top, no CD player, tape deck, radio or heater. The passenger's feet were warmed by the red-hot exhaust pipe passing closely under the floor boards. Oil fumes, exhaust heat and carbon monoxide filled the front passenger compartment. Passengers in the rumble seat had none of these benefits.

With the Halicrafters, I spent hundreds of hours scanning the bands. Snap on the BFO switch and, oh, the joy of listening to CW! What a fascinating and mysterious set of dits and dahs they were. Who was talking to whom and what were they saying?

With a sigh, I mentioned my nostalgic feelings to brother Dan Anderson, AA6GD. "Do you ever run across any of these old rigs?" I asked at the last club meeting. Four days later, Dan called to say that he had one for me. Not only did he have one, the price was right, and as an added bonus, it worked! The rig, in its original gray metal case with large yellowed dials sits before me as I write this. Big, black knobs invite my touch for Main Tuning, Bandsread, Pitch Control and Audio and RF gains. Toggle switches for AVC, ANL, BFO and "Send - Receive" all stand out from the front panel. The top flips open for easy test and replacement of the nine tubes.

When my XYL Donna, AB6XJ, and I were first married, I still had the rig and we both listened to it. I don't know why I ever sold it. Maybe I needed the money to buy diapers. But thanks to Dan, Donna and I will have the pleasure of once again, seeing and owning this old friend.

At lunch one day with Leon Fletcher, AA6ZG, and Wayne Thalls, KB6KN, we were discussing crystal sets. Wayne quickly drew the schematic out for me, it was the same as mine but he had the deluxe model with a fixed condenser in parallel with the earphone

QSTs

de Leon Fletcher AA6ZG In recent conversations remembering W6JET, Roy Couzin, said they did not realize that contributions could be made in his name to Mount Hermon Christian Conference Center, POB413, Scotts Valley, CA 95041; phone 335-4466.

Contributions to the Center are appropriate because Mrs. Couzin has been associated with the Center for years, a leader in the handling of tapes of sermons, concerts, lectures, etc. there. And of course it was at that Center that the memorial for Roy was held.

It is standard practice for the Center to acknowledge receipt of such contributions by sending a note to the contributor and also to the relatives of the honored one.

One recent Thursday evening, it was noticed that the link between K6BJ/R and KI6EH/R was down but only in the S/Bound direction. Both repeaters still worked and Santa Cruz could hear

Watsonville, but Watsonville couldn't hear Santa Cruz. Bruce AC6DN and Bob KD6FXQ did a bit of testing and were soon digging into the 422Mhz link radio's receiver in Watsonville. The fix was not immediately apparent so they planned to replace the radio with one of the spares that we have on hand for such situations (foresight!). Bob finished wiring the spare for installation on Friday night and George K6TAM tuned it up on Saturday morning. In the afternoon, Bob installed it in Watsonville and did the final tuning. Problem solved in time for Saturday night's storm!

Thanks again to those involved! Your time and effort are appreciated. de Cap KE6AFE

There will be no swap table at the March club meeting. This is due to a shift to a smaller meeting room. The swap table will again be set up for the April meeting.

de Dan Anderson, AA6GD

Technician Redux

Pre-March 21, 1987, to qualify for a General class license starting April 15, 2000, applicants must present valid credit for Elements 1, 2, and 3 at a volunteer examiner session. Those who held a Technician license, now expired or otherwise, prior to March 21, 1987, may claim Element 1 (5 WPM Morse code) and new Element 3 (current Element 3B, General exam) credit. Those who held a Technician license, now expired or otherwise, prior to February 14, 1991, may claim only Element 1 credit, as may anyone who has ever held a Novice ticket. The FCC rules provide Element 2 credit only for individuals who are currently licensed (or within the two-year grace period for renewal) at least at the Technician level. This means that before applying for a General license, a former amateur licensed as a Technician prior to March 21, 1987, and no longer licensed or within the two-year grace period for renewal, also must obtain Element 2 credit. To currently qualify for the Technician license (which conveys Element 2 credit) requires passing a 65-question two part exam (Novice and Technician). Starting April 15, Element 2 will be a single 35-question exam.

SCCARC Officers - 2000

President	Tom Johnson	KQ6DV	464-3120
Vice President	Don Hennese	KF6KGO	438-1486
Secretary	Cap Pennell	KE6AFE	429-1290
Treasurer	Allen Fugelseth	WB6RWU	475-8846
Board	Bruce Hawkins	AC6DN	
	Bruce Wade	W6FKD	423-0575
	Bill Walters	W6PAD	688-0557
	Lauren Hardy	KC6TPW	462-0247
	Ron Skelton	W6WO	477-1021
K6BJ Trustee	Royce Krilanovich	AC6Z	475-4798

MONTEREY BAY ACTIVITY

K6BJ / KI6EH (Linked) • SCCARC Net Monday 7:30 PM 146.79- /147.945-
146.79- /147.945- • SC ARES Net Monday 8:30 PM 146.835-
(PL 94.8) • Watsonville ARES Net Thursday 8:30 PM 147.945-

K6BJ / UHF
440.925 (PL 123)

K6LY (Monterey) • Monterey ARES Net Wednesday 7:30 PM
146.97- (PL 94.8) • NPSARC Net Wednesday 8:00 PM
444.700+ (PL 123) • Monterey Bay Traffic Net Nightly 9:00 PM
(Linked) • Monterey Bay Swap Net Wednesday 8:15 PM
• Newslite (Ham News) Broadcast Wednesday 8:30 PM

N6IYA (Felton) • SLVRC Net Thursday 7:30 PM
146.745- (PL 94.8) • SLV ARES Net Monday 7:30 PM
• Newslite (Ham News) Broadcast Sunday 9:00 PM

6 Meter Local Net 52.8 MHz (PL-114.8) Sunday 8:00 PM
SCCARC 10 Meter Net 28.308 MHz USB Monday 7:00 PM
Mont. Bay Chapter 191 QCWA :Tuesday, 7:30PM, AA6T repeater, 146.700-(NO PL).

SCCARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SCCARC Board Meeting 6:30	Friday	Mar. 17
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Mar. 17
SHORT SKIP deadline	Monday	Apr. 10
Santa Cruz ARES	Tuesday	Apr. 11
SCCARC Meeting	Friday	Apr. 21

Visit the SCCARC Website at

- www.fireclay.com/k6bj

NEW! – CLUB E-MAIL: k6bj@arrl.net

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The SCCARC Meets at 7:30 PM, on the THIRD FRIDAY of the each month (except December). Meeting are at Dominican Hospital, 1515 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz.

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

3/13	Allen WB6RWU
3/20	Phil KE6UWH
3/27	Ron W6WO
4/3	Dave W6TUW
4/10	Tom K6TG
4/17	Allen WB6RWU



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 238
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Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

Next Meeting March 17

Batteries All You Want To Know

FIRST CLASS